Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 IO-11 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /092 W

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R 111330Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PROP, GE, UK

SUBJ: GDR PRESS ATTACKS U.S. ACTIVITY IN DIEGO GARCIA

1. IN ITS MARCH 10 EDITION, THE EAST GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) ATTACKS THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED US/UK AGREEMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA. THE ARTICLE, DATELINED NEW DEHLI, ACCUSES THE U.S. OF MOVING AHEAD WITH A THINLY-VEILED PLAN TO ESTABLISH A MAJOR IMPERIALIST BASE IN THE SOUTH-ASIAN AREA, INCLUDING FACILITIES FOR SUBMARINES, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND STRATEGIC BOMBERS.
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2. THE GROWING STRENGTH OF NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS
IN THE AREA COUPLED WITH THE BALANCE OF POWER SHIFT TO THE
DISADVANTAGE OF THE IMPERIALISTS CAUSED THE UNSUCCESSFUL
ATTEMPT TO KEEP THIS "ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSPIRACY" SECRET,
ACCORDING TO ND. THE U.S., THE ARTICLE CONTINUES, IS
TRYING TO PRESENT THE WORLD WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI ON
DIEGO GARCIA, A DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO
INDIA. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI IS QUOTED AS WARNING OF THIS
"THREAT FROM THE HIGH SEAS."

3. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE REFLECTS THE PRO-SOVIET REACTION TO THE EXISTENCE OF, AND PLANS TO EXPAND, THE U.S. INSTALLATION ON DIEGO GARCIA. U.S.

INTENTIONS ARE LABELED A "SLAP IN THE FACE" TO THE 1961 UNGA RESOLUTION TO TRANSFORM THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ARTICLE POINTS UP BREZHNEV'S RECENT DECLARATION BEFORE THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS DISCLAIMING ANY INTENTION TO ERECT MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND CALLING ON THE U.S. TO ASSUME THE SAME POSITION. THE APPEARANCE OF THIS ARTICLE IN THE GDR PRESS FOLLOWS EARLIER PUBLICITY HERE OF THE SAME TENOR.COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, DIEGO GARCIA

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ultricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERL IN05428

Document Number: 1976BERLIN05428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760093-0806

From: BERLIN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760373/aaaaclyc.tel

Line Count: 85 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ullricre

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 12 APR 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ullricre>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: GDR PRESS ATTACKS U.S. ACTIVITY IN DIEGO GARCIA TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PROP, GC, UK, US, XO To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006